

42110 COLCHESTER

BOROUGH OF



COLCHESTER.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health

W. F. CORFIELD,

M.D., B.S., London; M.R.C.S., Eng.; L.R.C.P., Lond.;

D.P.H., Cambridge;

*Medical Officer of Health; School Medical Officer;*

*Medical Superintendent of the Isolation Hospital and Sanatorium;*

*Tuberculosis Officer and Public Analyst;*

1927.



Colchester:

WILES & SON, TRINITY STREET.



BOROUGH OF



COLCHESTER.

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BOROUGH & PORT HEALTH COMMITTEE,  
1927-28.

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THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR  
COUNCILLOR E. H. TURNER, J.P.

*Chairman :*

ALDERMAN R. B. BEARD, J.P.

*Deputy-Chairman :*

COUNCILLOR P. A. SANDERS, O.B.E., J.P., C.C.

*Councillors :*

MRS. C. B. ALDERTON,  
J.P., C.C.

MRS. BENSUSAN-BUTT, M.D.

DAME CATHERINE HUNT,  
D.B.E., J.P.

F. BILLINGTON, J.P.

G. LORD.

W. OSBORNE.

*Maternity and Child Welfare Committee :*

The Health Committee with the addition of  
MRS. FELL AND MRS. TOWNSEND.

## THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 1927.

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### *Medical Officer of Health, etc. :*

W. F. CORFIELD, M.D., B.S. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Camb.).

### *Assistant Medical Officer of Health, etc. :*

R. W. CUSHING, M.A., M.B., B.Ch. (Oxon).

### *Sanitary Inspectors :*

A. FISHER, C.R.S.I., Cert. Meat Insp.

L. BROOK, A.R.S.I., Cert. Meat Insp.

### *Health Nurses :*

MISS L. PEARSON, C.M.B.

MISS A. W. SASEL.

MISS E. R. SMITH, S.R.N., C.M.B.

### *Clerks :*

R. D. SARGEANT.

MISS M. KITTLE.

D. H. BAILEY.

O. R. WARNER.

### *Laboratory Assistant :*

R. D. SARGEANT.

### *Disinfectors :*

G. T. HEWES.

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### *Matron of the Borough Isolation Hospital and Sanatorium :*

MISS K. C. BRAIDWOOD, R.R.C.

### PART-TIME SPECIALISTS :

#### *Orthopaedic Surgeon :*

B. WHITCHURCH HOWELL, F.R.C.S. (Eng.).

#### *X-Ray Specialist :*

J. ORD PENDER SMITH, M.B., Ch.B. (Ed.), D.M.R.E. (Camb.).

HEALTH OFFICES,

TRINITY STREET,

8th May, 1928.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my Annual Report upon the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough for the year 1927.

There is nothing startling about any of the Statistical Rates for the year. The Death Rate increased a little, owing chiefly to Influenza early in the year; on the other hand the Infantile Mortality Rate was appreciably reduced. The Tuberculosis and Cancer Death Rates were almost stationary, the Tuberculosis Death Rates continuing to be most satisfactorily low.

The Birth Rate again fell. It has now reached the very low figure of 15.58 per thousand of the population. In 1920 there were over 1,000 births; in 1927 there were 760.

Maternal Mortality has caused a great deal of anxiety to those concerned with the Health Statistics of the Country as a whole. Cases of Puerperal Fever and Deaths of Women during, or in consequence of, Child-Birth are not at all frequent in Colchester. There were 4 last year, and no notifications of cases of Puerperal Fever. Even so such figures are no measure at all of the amount of injury or subsequent illness, the result of child-birth, and no one who knows the facts would wish to deny the great benefit that a community can derive from a well-attended Ante-natal Clinic and a well-managed Maternity Home.

A Clinic will be opened in Colchester early in 1928. Several attempts have been made to find suitable premises for a Maternity Home, but so far unsuccessfully. A dwelling-house is not readily converted into an Institution of this sort, and great care is needed before an ordinary house is approved for conversion.

The Orthopædic Clinic is proving of great benefit to infants. The earlier in life that deformities are treated, the better the results.

The interest and support of the Chairman and members of the Health Committee in the work of the Department has been much appreciated, and it is with pleasure that I thank the members of the Staffs of the Health Offices and Isolation Hospital for their constant and loyal assistance.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. F. CORFIELD,

*Medical Officer of Health, etc.*



# Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1927.

*An "Ordinary Report" as defined in para. 3 of Circular 834 of  
the Ministry of Health.*

## NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (acres) .. .. .	11,333
Population (1927 R.G. estimate)	{ For Birth Rate 48,770
	{ „ Death „ 45,170
„ (Census, 1921) .. .. .	43,393
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921) .. .. .	9,053
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (1921) .. .. .	9,380
Rateable Value .. .. .	£212,586
Sum represented by a Penny Rate .. .. .	£780

The Annual Report for 1927 is to be an "Ordinary Report," that is to say, in the words of Circular 834, "a Report of a more simple character than the full Survey Report which the Medical Officer of Health was asked to prepare for 1925."

**Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.**

			1926	1927
Birth Rate	..	..	16.1	15.58
„	„	England and Wales	17.8	16.7
Death Rate	..	..	10.6	11.24
„	„	England and Wales	11.6	12.3
Infantile Mortality Rate	..	..	62.5	46.05
„	„	„ England and Wales	70.0	69.0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis Death Rate	..	..	0.58	0.62
Other Tubercular Diseases	..	..	0.33	<b>0.13</b>
Cancer Death Rate	..	..	1.43	1.46

Births		Total	Male	Female	Infantile Deaths.
760	Legitimate	724	369	355	34
	Illegitimate	36	20	16	1

Total Deaths, 508.      Male, 259.      Female, 249.

Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, Child-Birth—

From Sepsis, —.      From Other Causes, 4.

Legitimate Infantile Mortality Rate	..	..	46.96
Illegitimate „ „ „	..	..	27.77
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	..	..	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	3
„ „ Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	..	..	1

In the above figures it should be noted that the Registrar-General has reduced the population estimated for Birth Rate purposes by 710, and increased that for Death Rate calculations by 390. The reasons for this are not clear, as there has been no remarkable change in the population during the year. In any case these estimates cannot be very correct so many years after the last census, and it is to be hoped that at the next census, in



1931, the Registrar-General will be content with one population figure for Colchester. Two were adopted in 1921 owing to the uncertainty at that time about the Military Population. It might have increased considerably or diminished considerably, and so the Registrar-General issued two figures, one for calculating Birth Rates which included wives and families of soldiers, and one for Death Rates that excluded the whole Military population, and this system will continue until the next census. There appears to be no reason why the old system of including the Garrison should not then be re-introduced.

The Birth Rate is lower again. It has been falling steadily since 1920. The Death Rate, though not so low as in 1926, is lower in comparison with that for England and Wales. A short but virulent outbreak of Influenza was the chief cause of the increase above that of the previous year. The Infantile Mortality Rate is below 50 per 1000 births, where it should constantly be. One of the difficulties of a small Birth Rate is that every Infant Death raises the Infantile Death Rate much more than if the Birth Rate were a high one.

Both the Tuberculosis Death Rates are very low. That from the Pulmonary Disease is not quite so good as in 1926, but the difference is small. That from the Non-Pulmonary types of the disease is remarkably low. It is difficult to avoid the deduction that this is due to the greater care taken of late to produce a clean milk supply.

The Cancer Rate is almost stationary.

It should be particularly noted that only one Illegitimate Baby died during the year. That the child was illegitimate is only an assumption of the Registrar's, as the baby, aged about 24 hours, was found dead in a field, and no information about it was ever obtained.

Deaths from Measles, Whooping Cough and Diarrhoea (in children under 2 years), have all decreased. It is very gratifying that although there were probably some 500 cases of Measles in the town, there were no deaths from this disease.

**Deaths of Colchester Residents of 70 years and over.**

70 and under 80	80 and under 90	90 and over	Total over 70
132	61	9	202

The ages of persons of 90 and over were—1 of 90, 2 of 91, 1 of 92, 1 of 93, 3 of 94, and 1 of 95; 7 of these 9 were women.

**Garrison and Institutional Populations.**

Average Daily Strength of the Garrison	..	3,923	
Officers,	166.	Women, 374.	
Other Ranks,	2,791.	Children, 592.	
Mental Hospitals Population	.. ..	3,288	
Severalls Mental Hospital (Inmates and Resident Staff)	.. ..	1,935	Increase or Decrease. + 22
Royal Eastern Counties Institution		1,353	+ 43

Small changes have occurred in all the above figures, but none worthy of particular mention.

**The Causes of Death in Infants and Children under 5 years, 1927.**

Cause of Death	Under 1 year	1—2 years	2—5 years	TOTALS
Influenza ... ..	...	2	1	3
Cancer ... ..	...	...	2	2
Other Respiratory Diseases...	1	...	...	1
Whooping Cough ... ..	2	1	...	3
Meningococcal Meningitis ...	...	1	1	2
Heart Disease ... ..	2	...	...	2
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	1	...	1
Bronchitis ... ..	2	3	1	6
Pneumonia ... ..	1	5	3	9
Diarrhœa and Enteritis ... ..	1	...	...	1
Congenital Debility and Pre-mature Birth ... ..	24	1	...	25
Other Defined Diseases ... ..	1	...	4	5
Violent Deaths ... ..	1	...	1	2
Totals... ..	35	14	13	62

No one disease can be selected as the cause of the deaths last year of young children. As will probably always be the case, Congenital Malformation and Debility accounts for the largest number of infant deaths. No doubt Ante-natal work will reduce this figure to some extent, and it shows in such a Table as this what a big field there is for Ante-natal work to cover. For not only can the mother's health be benefitted very largely by Ante-natal care, but many infant lives that would have been lost can be saved thereby.

In 1926 there were 51 deaths of infants under 1 year old; last year there were only 35.

### Causes of Death in Colchester, 1927.

(Civilians only)

Causes	Males	Females	TOTALS
Enteric Fever ... ..	1	...	1
Measles ... ..	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..	2	...	2
Whooping Cough ... ..	1	2	3
Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	...
Influenza ... ..	11	17	28
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	...	1	1
Meningococcal Meningitis ... ..	1	1	2
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ... ..	15	13	28
Other Tuberculous Diseases ... ..	2	4	6
Cancer, Malignant Disease ... ..	37	29	66
Rheumatic Fever ... ..	1	1	2
Diabetes ... ..	2	...	2
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c. ... ..	12	17	29
Heart Disease ... ..	43	42	85
Arterio-sclerosis ... ..	14	16	30
Bronchitis ... ..	18	11	29
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	15	13	28
Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	1	...	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum... ..	3	1	4
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years) ... ..	1	...	1
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ... ..	1	1	2
Cirrhosis of Liver ... ..	1	1	2
Acute and Chronic Nephritis ... ..	6	8	14
Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	...	...	...
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ... ..	...	4	4
Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth ... ..	13	9	22
Suicide ... ..	7	1	8
Other deaths from Violence ... ..	8	1	9
Other Defined Diseases ... ..	43	56	99
Causes Ill-defined or Unknown ... ..	...	...	...
Totals ... ..	259	249	508

The chief increases in the causes of Death as compared with those of 1926 were—Influenza from 5 to 28; Heart Disease from 68 to 85 and Arterio-sclerosis from 23 to 30. Diminution occurred in—other Tuberculosis Diseases from 15 to 6; Cerebral Hæmorrhage from 38 to 29 and Diarrhœa from 5 to 1.

There was an increase of 32 in the total deaths that occurred.

**Birth Rate, Death Rate, and Analysis of Mortality  
during the year 1927.**

	Birth Rate per 1000 Total Population.	Annual Death Rate per 1000 Population.							Rate per 1000 Births.	
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Diarrhœa and Enteritis under 2 yrs.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
England and Wales	16·7	12·3	0·01	0·09	0·01	0·09	0·07	0·57	6·7	69
107 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	17·1	12·2	0·01	0·12	0·01	0·10	0·08	0·57	6·3	69
155 Smaller Towns	16·4	11·3	0·01	0·07	0·01	0·08	0·05	0·58	5·0	68
London ...	16·1	11·9	0·01	0·04	0·01	0·12	0·09	0·39	7·5	59
Colchester Borough	15·6	11·2	0·02	0·00	0·04	0·07	0·00	0·64	1·31	46·05

**GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.**

No change has occurred in the number of the various Hospitals and similar Institutions in the district. The particulars given in the Survey Report of 1925 remain correct.

The Ambulance Service, Clinics, and Treatment Centres are also unchanged since the last Report.

The Orthopædic Clinic continues the excellent work that was started at the end of 1925. Infants with orthopædic defects are referred to this Clinic from the Infant Clinics and are seen by the Specialist. True preventive work as well as curative work, is, in this way, done as certain orthopædic defects can only be satisfactorily dealt with in the earliest years of life.

Efforts have been repeatedly made during the year to find suitable accommodation for a Maternity Home. Although likely premises had been under review no decision had been arrived at by the end of the year. The institution of an Ante-natal Clinic also had careful consideration and it is likely that fresh arrangements will be made for such a Clinic early in the new year.\*

### **Public Health Officers.**

Mr. J. E. Austin who was appointed Additional Sanitary Inspector in 1926 resigned to take up a similar appointment at West Bromwich. His place was taken by Mr. L. Brook, who holds the Certificates of Sanitary Inspector and Meat Inspector of the Royal Sanitary Institute. A contribution is made to his salary under the Public Health Acts.

Owing to the increasing pressure of work upon the Health Department and particularly upon the Sanitary Inspectors' Office, it was found necessary to appoint a Clerk to assist in this department. The only alternative appeared to be the appointment of a third Sanitary Inspector. The time is not far distant when such an appointment will have to be considered.

It was a serious loss to the Isolation Hospital when Miss K. C. Braidwood found it advisable to resign owing to ill health. She will be very much missed by the whole staff. For over 25 years Miss Braidwood, R.R.C., gave unstinted and whole-hearted service to the Hospital. All who came in contact with her either officially or as patients will willingly testify to the noble work she successfully performed. She saw the Hospital grow from some ten or fifteen beds in an old farm house to a well equipped up-to-date modern Hospital of 150 beds. Everyone who knew Miss Braidwood or saw her at work realized her whole heart was in her work, and that her one anxiety was the well-being and happiness of the patients under her care.

### **Professional Nursing in the Home.**

No change has occurred since the Survey Report of 1925.

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\* This is now, March, 1928, an accomplished fact.

**Laboratory Work.**

Specimens Examined.	Results.		TOTAL.
	Positive.	Negative or Normal.	1927.
Swabs for Diphtheria B. ... ..	22	253	275
Sputum for Tubercle B. ... ..	28	98	126
Blood for Typhoid and Paratyphoid Reaction... ..	2	20	22
Blood films for cell content ... ..	...	2	2
Pus for Gonococci ... ..	...	1	1
Hair for Ringworm... ..	1	...	1
Urine Examinations (various) ... ..	1	8	9
Spinal Fluid for Meningococcus ... ..	...	1	1
Blood film for Anæmia ... ..	1	...	1
Sputum for Streptococci ... ..	...	1	1
Vomit ... ..	...	1	1
Town Water Supply { Spring Supply ... 3 } Analysis ... { Artesian Well ... 3 }	...	...	6
Other Water Supply Analysis ... ..	...	...	1
Total Specimens Examined ... ..	...	...	447

**Legislation in Force.**

No change in the Adoptive Acts, Local Acts, Bye-laws and Regulations in the Borough since 1926.

On July 1st, an Act for the Compulsory Registration of Still-Births came into force.

**MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.**

*Visits paid to Infants by the Health Nurses during the year.*

Under 1 month	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—12 months	1—2 years	2—5 years	Total Visits
829	965	1,185	1,950	2,521	3,814	11,264

Visits to Illegitimate Children	..	..	491
Long Tube Bottles being used	..	..	nil
Occasions where Infants were sleeping with their parents	..	..	34
Still Birth enquiries	..	..	7

*Notification of Births Act.*

Children born alive and notified in accordance with the Act	.. .. .	765
Children born alive and not so notified	.. .. .	18
Still Births notified	.. .. .	28
Births notified by Midwives	.. .. .	543
„ „ Parents or Doctors	.. .. .	250

These figures are very much as usual, with one satisfactory exception. Again, the number of failures to notify births has fallen. In 1925 there were 47 such omissions, in 1926 there were 29, whereas in 1927 there were only 18, the lowest figure reached since this Act came into force.

*Nursing of Sick Children of under 5 years.*

Several General Practitioners make use of the arrangements with the District Nursing Association for the nursing of sick children in their homes, and telephone to the Health Offices and ask the assistance of a nurse for an ailing child. By these means 36 children were looked after, the expenses of the nursing being defrayed by the Borough Council. This is the largest number of children nursed in any one year under this arrangement. Only children whose parents cannot afford the very moderate charge of the District Nursing Association are assisted in this way, and undoubtedly many lives and much suffering have been saved by these means as the list of illnesses from which these children were suffering shows. They were—Debility and Discharging Eyes (1), Measles and Broncho-pneumonia (2), Pneumonia (26), Influenza (5), Acute Bronchitis (1), Stomatitis (1), Umbilical Discharge (1).

Over double the number of visits paid in 1926 were undertaken. A total of 679 visits was reached. Only 3 children died, and only one of these was from Pneumonia, the 25 other Pneumonia cases all recovering, an extremely high percentage for this disease in young children. The other two deaths were one from Acute Bronchitis and the other a very debilitated child with a discharge from the eyes.

**The Infant Clinic.**

Number of new babies brought to the Clinic: Trinity Street 164, Wimpole Road 67	..	..	231
Number of Attendances made: Trinity Street 1,168			
Wimpole Road 711	..	..	1,879
Dried Milk supplied free or at reduced prices		lbs.	255
„ „ „ at full special price	..	lbs.	1,157
Meat Extract supplied at full special price in 10-oz. cartons	..	..	938
Flannel supplied at a special price	..	yds.	62
Tooth Brushes	..	..	50
Wool supplied at a special price	..	lbs.	7 $\frac{1}{8}$
Baby Garments made up at special prices	..		—
Paper Patterns for Baby Clothing given free	..		—
Malt and Cod Liver Oil	..	..	98
Cod Liver Oil and Hypophosphites	..	4-oz. bottles	222
Parish's Food	..	..	112
Lactagol	..	..	81
Baby Feeding Bottles	..	..	7
Ostelin Cream	..	..	28

All the figures of attendances are somewhat lower, although not seriously so. Two new articles are now supplied, tooth brushes and Ostelin cream. The former had a good sale, and it is a good sign and shows that mothers are realizing the value of looking after their children's teeth, and perhaps their own also.

**Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1919.**

	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	
Number of families supplied with free fresh milk	..	84	71	61	78	87
Number of pints supplied	..	8,309	6,167	5,507	6,969	10,252

The amount of milk supplied has increased considerably. There is no obvious reason for this. In August the number of families supplied with milk rose, and did not fall again before the end of the year. This was partly due to several families being kept on the list rather longer than usual, owing to there being an unusually large number of children in the family.



*Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia.* No cases of Puerperal Fever and only 3 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified. The latter were, apparently, simple straightforward cases, as the notifying practitioners did not ask for any assistance for them.

Difficulty has been experienced in appointing a Consultant under the new Regulations dealing with this condition. It seems desirable that a local practitioner of wide and special experience should be appointed, but after consultation with the Committee of the local Division of the British Medical Association, no satisfactory decision has been reached. The matter is still under consideration.

*Ophthalmia Neonatorum.*

Number of Cases.	Cases			Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
	Notified	Treated					
		At Home	In Hospital				
1	1	1	...	1	...	...	..

*Orthopædic Clinic.*

Nearly double the number of Infants were seen by Mr. Whitchurch Howell than in the preceding year.

	1926	1927
Infants brought to the Clinic ..	9	17
Attendances made .. ..	10	20

These babies were suffering from the following conditions, either the result of Disease or Congenital Malformation :—

Condition or Disease.	No. of Cases.
Rickets .. ..	5
Flat Feet .. ..	3
Bowed Legs .. ..	2
Infantile Paralysis .. ..	2
Pigeon Toes and Knock-knees .. ..	3
Dislocation of Hip (Congenital) .. ..	1
Deformed Feet and Hands .. ..	1

A great deal can be done for the large majority of such cases when they are seen so early in life. The one great difficulty encountered is the apathy and indifference of some of the parents. Certain mothers seem to dislike either the trouble involved or the appearance of their babies wearing splints. These are, of course, the less intelligent women. The best and most sensible mothers welcome the help and advice provided by this Clinic, and are only too anxious to carry out all the recommendations for the treatment of their babies.

## **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**

### **Water.**

The results of the bacteriological examinations of the town water supply have already been given. They were satisfactory upon every occasion.

During the past few years a great deal of fresh building has been undertaken in the more outlying parts of the Borough. In many instances the water mains have been taken to such parts for the supply of the new houses, and in some cases these mains have been taken past old property that up to that time had been dependent for its water upon a shallow well. In all such cases an endeavour is made to get the owner to lay the town water on to the house.

During the past year the mains have been extended 642 yards and 1,789 yards of old 3-inch mains have been replaced by 4-inch mains.

The yields of the Deep Well and of the Lexden and Sheepen Springs have been well maintained, the average daily supply being 1,159,239 gallons, or a consumption of 23·6 gallons per head of the population. The yield of the springs alone was 757,800 gallons per day.

### **Drainage and Sewerage.**

The Sewers like the Water Mains are constantly following the population into the more rural parts of the Borough. In 1927 drainage and sewerage work was continued in the Housing Site in

Ipswich Road to the extent of 162 yards. Another large addition occurred at the Old Heath Housing Site, where 169 yards of 6-inch sewer was laid.

### **Closet Accommodation and Wells.**

It will be noted that 19 new cesspools have been constructed during 1927 and 7 new wells.

Type of Closet.	1925	1926	1927
Privy ... ..	50	47	44
Pail Closets ... ..	125	125	126
Cess-pools ... ..	50	113	132
Wells ... ..	120	158	165

No cesspools and no wells were abolished during the year, but the number of privies was reduced by three.

While a large part of the Borough remains rural in character it is necessary to continue to permit cesspools and wells, but as dwellings spread further into the country and the population becomes more dense, both wells and cesspools are more likely not only to cause nuisance but also to originate illness, and so far as possible each should be superseded by connection to the water mains and to the town sewerage.

#### *Hand-flushed Closets connected with Water Supply.*

1925	1926	1927
380	149	48

The town may be said now to be served almost throughout with water closets supplied with water from the mains through proper flushing cisterns. This is typically one of those sanitary changes that improves the general health. The good that is done by the change cannot be assessed in any way, yet it is such a change as this that raises the vitality and resistance to disease of the inhabitants. No one can say exactly what illness a constantly foul closet will cause, yet the dwellers in the vicinity, particularly the children, would not be quite so well and would not resist disease quite so easily as those living in healthier surroundings.

**Scavenging.**

No changes have occurred in the system of refuse collection and disposal.

Rather more Ash-pits have been abolished than usual. These pits are insanitary when compared with portable ash-bins, and wherever possible should be replaced by sanitary ash-bins.

Year.	Ash-pits Abolished.	Ash-bins Provided.
1924	12	398
1925	9	273
1926	2	177
1927	19	141

**Sanitary Inspection.**

*General Summary of Work carried out by Sanitary Inspector's Department under Public Health Acts, Housing Acts, Bye-laws, etc.*

Complaints received	..	..	..	483
Defects found ..	..	..	..	1,801
Defects remedied	..	..	..	1,154
Factories and Workshops inspected	..	..	..	136
Homeworkers' Premises inspected	..	..	..	190
Informal Notices served	..	..	..	458
Statutory Notices served	..	..	..	228
Summonses taken out	..	..	..	—

*Housing.*

Bedroom Floors repaired	..	..	..	18
Other Floors repaired (Paved or Boarded)	..	..	..	44
Walls, internal plaster repaired	..	..	..	62
„ external „ „	..	..	..	9
„ Water-proof, cemented internally	..	..	..	14
„ external, brickwork repaired	..	..	..	7
Ceiling plaster repaired	..	..	..	40
Doors, new sills provided	..	..	..	13
„ „ weather boards provided	..	..	..	4
„ „ provided	..	..	..	1
„ re-hung or repaired	..	..	..	9

Windows made to open .. .. .	4
,, Sash cords, frames, etc, repaired ..	67
,,    ,,    ,, weights and pulleys provided	17
Fire grates renewed or repaired .. ..	19
Stairs, hand rails provided .. ..	38
,, treads repaired or renewed .. ..	15
Rooms cleansed and re-decorated .. ..	12
Food cupboards ventilated .. ..	3
Roofs repaired .. ..	43
Rain water guttering repaired .. ..	14
,,    ,, downpipes disconnected .. ..	4
,,    ,,    ,, lengthened .. ..	1
,,    ,,    ,, repaired or renewed .. ..	10
Chimneys repaired .. ..	10
Washing boilers provided .. ..	11
,,    ,, repaired .. ..	14
,,    ,, furnaces renewed or repaired .. ..	4
Wash houses thoroughly repaired .. ..	5
Houses demolished .. ..	5
,, undrained, drained to sewer .. ..	4
Yards, paving repaired .. ..	20
Yards and Passages paved .. ..	22

### *Water Supply.*

New water taps provided .. ..	38
,, service put in .. ..	33
Service pipes repaired or renewed .. ..	18
Wells repaired or cleansed .. ..	3
Old wells filled up .. ..	1
Pumps repaired .. ..	1
Defects reported to Water Supply Department ..	8
Inspections where water has been cut off by Water Supply Department .. ..	91

### *Sinks.*

Earthenware sinks provided .. ..	37
Sink waste pipes provided .. ..	37
,,    ,,    ,, repaired .. ..	2

*Drainage.*

New drains provided	..	..	..	31
New gullies provided	..	..	..	45
New inspection chambers built	..	..	..	10
„ „ „ covers provided	..	..	..	11
Drains ventilated	..	..	..	7
„ Fresh Air Inlets provided	..	..	..	6
„ reconstructed	..	..	..	1
„ repaired	..	..	..	16
„ obstructions removed	..	..	..	57
„ insanitary traps abolished	..	..	..	8

*Water Closets.*

W.C's New erected	..	..	..	3
„ Re-built	..	..	..	2
„ New pans provided	..	..	..	15
„ „ traps put in	..	..	..	14
„ flushing apparatus provided	..	..	..	48
„ „ „ repaired	..	..	..	77
„ Pans cleansed	..	..	..	4
„ Other repairs, floors, etc.	..	..	..	16

*Privies.*

Privies abolished	..	..	..	3
„ Structure repaired	..	..	..	1
„ New pails provided	..	..	..	7

*Ashpits.*

New ashbins provided	..	..	..	141
Insanitary ashpits abolished	..	..	..	19

*Other Sanitary Work.*

Offensive accumulations removed	..	..	..	13
Dead Animals removed from public places and buried				29
Overcrowding Nuisances abated or recommendations for Council House	..	..	..	25
Pig Keeping Nuisances abated	..	..	..	4
Smoke Nuisances abated	..	..	..	3
Other Nuisances abated	..	..	..	9
Matters reported to Borough Surveyor's Department				37
Defects reported to H.M. Inspector of Factories	..	..	..	2

Vans inspected	..	..	..	80
Common Lodging House inspections	..	..	..	6
Re-visits in connection with Sanitary Notices	..	..	..	2149
<i>Milk and Dairies Order.</i>				
Requirements complied with	..	..	..	21
<i>Meat Regulations and Slaughter House Byelaws.</i>				
Requirements complied with	..	..	..	5
<i>Offensive Trade Byelaws.</i>				
Requirements complied with	..	..	..	9
<i>Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act.</i>				
Inspections	..	..	..	53
Advice as to destruction given	..	..	..	18
Letters to Occupiers of premises	..	..	..	14
Premises freed	..	..	..	16
Complaints received	..	..	..	14

These Tables have been expanded this year, and include in tabular form a very concise account of the large amount of work carried out in the Sanitary Inspector's Department.

Last year attention was drawn to the large number of re-visits in connection with Sanitary Notices. This year has exceeded last year's figure by 540 visits.

Under the title "Housing" is given a detailed list of the defects which have been remedied. These defects are among those that are enumerated in the Manual of the Ministry of Health. This Manual lays down a certain Standard of Fitness for existing houses, and although newly-built houses may be properly expected to reach a higher standard than that laid down, yet for the general inspection of house property, some of which may be over a hundred years old, such standards as those suggested by the Ministry are of great value. The standards of this Manual have now been very generally accepted as those that should be reached by all houses, and during their housing inspections the Sanitary Inspectors follow very closely the recommendations of the Manual.

It will be noted that a number of sinks have been provided. There are still a number of houses without sinks that should have

them, and with the improved sanitary standard now demanded it is realized that the throwing of slop-water into a common yard gully is not the proper method of disposal, and, in towns at any rate, every house should have a proper sink and sink-waste.

This is the first time that details have been given of work under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act.

*Premises and Occupations controlled by Bye-laws and Regulations.  
Offensive Trades.*

	Number.	Inspections.
Fish Frier ... ..	21	23
Gut Scraper ... ..	1	12
Tallow Melter ... ..	3	68
Rag, Bone and Skin Dealer ... ..	5	6
Bone Boiler ... ..	1	8
Total .. ..	31	117
Horse Slaughterer ... ..	1	6

There has been no change in the number of these premises, and all trades have been carried on satisfactorily and with as little offence as possible, with one exception.

Last year attention was drawn in the Annual Report to the fact that nuisance had arisen from the premises of one of the Tallow Melters, and that the firm had undertaken to install modern plant in place of their old melting pans. This was done, but only after a good deal of trouble and alteration of the exhaust piping did it appear to work satisfactorily. The summer of 1928 will show if the new machinery deals with the offensive fumes from the melting fat as completely as it should.

*Common Lodging Houses.*

There is only one in the Borough and this has continued to be kept and to be conducted in a satisfactory manner.



## FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

### 1.—*Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.*

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Prosecutions (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	30	9	...
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries) ... ..	17	5	...
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises) ... ..	...	...	...
Total ... ..	47	14	..

### 2.—*Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.*

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecu- tions (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts* :—</i>				
Want of cleanliness ...	18	20	...	...
Want of ventilation ...	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding ...	...	...	...	...
Want of drainage of floors ...	...	...	...	...
Other nuisances... ..	8	5	..	...
<i>Sanitary accommodation—</i>				
Insufficient ... ..	1	1	...	...
Unsuitable or defective	4	4	...	...
Not separate for sexes ...	1	1	...	...
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of under-ground bakehouse (s. 101)	...	...	...	...
Other offences (Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921). ...	3	3	2	...
Total ... ..	35	34	2	...

\* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

*Outwork in Unwholesome Premises, Section 108.*

Nature of Work.	Instances.	Notices served.	Prosecutions.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Wearing Apparel—Making, &c. ...	3	3	...
Total ...	3	3	...

*Home Work.*

Nature of Work.	Outworkers' Lists. Section 107.						Notices served on Occupiers as to keeping or sending Lists.
	Lists received from Employers twice a year.			Lists received from Employers once a year.			
	Lists.	Outworkers.		Lists.	Outworkers.		
		Con-tractors.	Work-men.		Con-tractors.	Work-men.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	
Wearing Apparel Making, etc...	38	—	1093	1	—	1	5
Furniture and Upholstery ..	4	—	8	—	—	—	—
Sack Making ..	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Paper Receptacle Making ..	2	—	5	—	—	—	—
Total ..	46	—	1108	1	—	1	5

The usual procedure of transferring particulars of Outworkers resident in other districts to those districts has been continued. Similarly, particulars have been received from other districts of Outworkers in those districts living in Colchester.

During the year 20 lists, containing 448 names, were transferred from Colchester, and 5 lists were received from other districts.

**HOUSING.***Statistics for the Year 1927.*

Number of New Houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total (including numbers given under [b]) ..	192
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :	
(i.) By the Local Authority ..	106
(ii.) By other bodies or persons ..	74

.—*Unfit Dwelling-Houses.*

## Inspection :—

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .. .. .	613
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated Regulations, 1925) .. .. .	76
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .. .. .	14
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .. .. .	509

II.—*Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers .. .. .	473
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III.—*Action under Statutory Powers.*

## A. Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .. .. .	58
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices ;	
(a) by owners .. .. .	29
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners .. .. .	—
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close .. .. .	—

## B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	124
--	-----

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices ;			
(a) by owners	..	..	82
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	..		2
C. Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing, Act, 1925:			
(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	..	..	11
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	..	.	11
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	..	..	—
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	..	..	4
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	..	..	1

The number of new houses erected is less by 78 than the number erected in 1926, but in addition 194 were in hand or in contemplation at the end of the year.

*Distribution of the New Houses.*

North Ward.	South Ward.	East Ward.	West Ward.
49	43	16	84

It is somewhat disturbing to find that 78 less houses were built in 1927 and although there were 194 houses in hand at the end of the year, yet this figure is 7 less than that of 12 months earlier.

The number of houses built without State Assistance is very low, but better than in 1926.

Eleven houses were closed owing to their being unfit for human habitation. Some of these may be made fit, but the majority will no doubt have to be demolished.

A large number of applicants have called at the Health Offices throughout the year appealing to be recommended for Council Houses. Representations are only made to the Housing Committee on behalf of applicants whose present habitation is in one respect or another insanitary. It is regrettable that the commonest is overcrowding. There is still need of accommodation for the poorest workers with families. Council houses have helped very considerably with the housing question, but it is an unfortunate fact that a large number of families have to live in two rooms, or even one room, owing to the cost of housing accommodation.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Premises	Number	Inspections
Slaughter-houses :—		
Registered ... .. 10 }	20	644
Licensed ... .. 10 }		
Bakehouses ... .. 34 }	35	89
Underground ... .. 1 }		
Dairies and Milk Shops ... ..	80	86
Cowsheds ... ..	54	76

#### Milk.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923.

Producers .. .. .	0
Retailers .. .. .	5
Certified Milk .. .. .	1
Grade " A " (Tuberculin Tested) Milk ..	1
Grade " A " Milk .. .. .	3

The retailers obtain the milk already bottled direct from the farm at which it has been produced.

No licences were refused or revoked during the year.

#### Meat.

More than three times as many carcasses were examined by the Meat Inspectors during 1927, than in the previous year.

*Carcasses Examined by the Meat Inspectors.*

	Cattle.	Swine.	Sheep.	Total.
1926	290	510	342	1,142
1927	792	1,549	1,258	3,599



## Parts of Carcasses and Organs.

	Disease.	Weight, lbs.
<i>Cattle—</i>		
Liver .. ..	Distomatosis .. ..	585½
Liver .. ..	Distomatosis and Cirrhosis .. ..	58
Liver .. ..	Distomatosis & Multiple Abscesses .. ..	40
Liver .. ..	Multiple Abscesses .. ..	150
Liver .. ..	Cirrhosis .. ..	78
Liver .. ..	Angiomatosis .. ..	35½
Liver .. ..	Tuberculosis .. ..	61
Liver .. ..	Echinococcus Cysts .. ..	24
Liver .. ..	Melanosis .. ..	12
Liver .. ..	Fatty Degeneration .. ..	16
Forequarters .. ..	Tuberculosis .. ..	350
Loins .. ..	.. ..	186
Brisket and Plate .. ..	.. ..	41
Brisket and Flanks .. ..	Dropsy .. ..	70
Heads and Tongues .. ..	Tuberculosis .. ..	360
Lungs .. ..	.. ..	161
Mesenteries .. ..	.. ..	44
Tongues .. ..	Actinomycosis .. ..	33
Paunch .. ..	Peritonitis .. ..	20
Diaphragm .. ..	.. ..	9
Heart .. ..	Pericarditis .. ..	6
Kidneys .. ..	Nephritis .. ..	4
		2344
<i>Pigs—</i>		
46 Heads and Tongues .. ..	Tuberculosis .. ..	571½
15 Mesenteries .. ..	.. ..	32
6 Sets Lungs .. ..	.. ..	16½
8 Sets Lungs .. ..	Pneumonia .. ..	30
2 Sets Lungs .. ..	Congestion .. ..	14
1 Pluck .. ..	.. ..	9
5 Plucks .. ..	Tuberculosis .. ..	44
1 Pluck .. ..	Pneumonia .. ..	7½
1 Pluck .. ..	Pleurisy and Cirrhosis .. ..	4
5 Livers .. ..	Cirrhosis .. ..	22
1 Liver .. ..	Tuberculosis .. ..	4
1 Liver .. ..	Angiomatosis .. ..	3
1 Liver .. ..	Degenerated Cysts .. ..	4
1 Spleen .. ..	Tuberculosis .. ..	1
2 Kidneys .. ..	Nephritis .. ..	½
1 Hindquarter .. ..	Tumour .. ..	48½
1 Loin and Flank .. ..	Extensive Inflammation .. ..	37
1 Leg and Part of Loin .. ..	Accidental Injury .. ..	17
		865½
<i>Sheep—</i>		
	Bruising .. ..	18
2 Sets Lungs and Liver .. ..	Echinococcus Cysts .. ..	10
		28
<i>Miscellaneous—</i>		
Chilled Beef .. ..	Tuberculosis .. ..	168
Chilled Beef .. ..	Decomposition .. ..	712½
Chilled Offal .. ..	.. ..	50
Tinned Meat .. ..	.. ..	21
Fish .. ..	.. ..	1183
		2134½

Total Weight of Food Condemned : 7804-lbs. = 3-tons 9-cwt. 2-qrs. 20-lbs.

**Other Foods.**

Visits are paid to all premises in which foods are prepared or handled. During the year 335 such inspections were made to Fish, Fruit and Vegetable Stalls and Meat Shops and Stalls. Reasonable cleanliness is insisted upon, but that food, particularly meat and food that is eaten raw or is sold ready for consumption, should be exposed to all the dust and flies of an open road in a busy town upon the busiest day of the week does grate upon the sanitary conscience. Such exposure surely cannot be tolerated for many years more.

**Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.**

*Result of Analysis of Samples taken under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.*

Samples.	Number of Samples.	Adulterated.	Nature of Adulteration.
New Milk ... ..	56	5	5 Fat Deficient:—
Sweets ... ..	2		10'0 per cent.;
Chocolate Powder ... ..	2		10'0 per cent.;
Rice ... ..	1		6'6 per cent.;
Sugar .. ..	1		20'0 per cent.;
Arrowroot Biscuits ... ..	1		43'3 per cent. respectively.
Sago ... ..	1		
Mixed Spice... ..	1		
White Pepper ... ..	1		
Coffee ... ..	2		
Butter ... ..	8		
Arrowroot ... ..	2		
Ice Cream ... ..	3		
Amon.Tincture of Quinine	1		
Pearl Barley ... ..	1		
Cream ... ..	4		
Stout ... ..	1		
Port Wine ... ..	1		
Ice Cream ... ..	3		
Margarine ... ..	1		
Tea ... ..	2		
Brandy ... ..	1		
Sausages ... ..	2		
Malt Vinegar ... ..	1		
Bread ... ..	3		
Self-Raising Flour ... ..	1		
Glycerine ... ..	1		
Strawberry Jam ... ..	1		
Cheddar Cheese ... ..	1		
Seidlitz Powder ... ..	1		
Lard ... ..	1		
Cream of Tartar ... ..	1		
Tincture of Iodine ... ..	1		
Camphorated Oil ... ..	1		
	110	5	



All cases of adulteration were carefully considered by the Watch Committee. In four of the five that occurred a warning was considered sufficient, but the fifth was a case where a deficiency of over 43 per cent. of the fat was found. In this instance a prosecution was instituted, and resulted in a fine of £10 with 3 guineas costs being inflicted.

Of the five cases only one was taken in course of delivery after an original sample had been found to be deficient, the other four were original samples.

### Milk and Cream Regulations, 1912-1917.

	(a) Number of Samples examined for the pre- sence of a preservative.	(b) Number in which a Pre- servative was reported to be present and per- centage of preservative found in each sample.
Milk, and Cream not sold as Preserved Cream—		
Milk ... ..	56	...
Cream ... ..	4	...
Cream sold as Preserved Cream ... ..	...	...

### PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The year 1927 proved a very mild one from the Notifiable Infectious Disease point of view. The table below shows this to a remarkable degree. The disease that was most serious and much more frequent than usual was Pneumonia. This was due to the after effects of Influenza in many cases, and the importance of treating Influenza as a dangerous disease cannot be too strongly insisted upon. It is only too common to hear of someone who has refused to go to bed with a mild attack of Influenza, remaining run down and debilitated for weeks afterwards, and then developing Pneumonia, Pleurisy or Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

**Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during  
the Year 1927.**

(Civilian and Military Cases.)

Disease	Total Cases Notified and Total Deaths	Total Cases and Deaths in Age Groups											Cases admitted to Hospital	
		Under 1 Year	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-34	35-44	45-64		65 and over
Diphtheria ...	8	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	4	...	1	...	8
Scarlet Fever ...	26	...	...	...	2	2	12	1	2	5	2	...	...	19
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) }	8 1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	3	1	...	4
Puerperal Fever...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ...	118 19	4	12 2	9	8 2	6 1	15	2	3	10 1	17	18 6	14 7	...

*Other Diseases Generally Notifiable.*

Malaria ...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	2	1	1	...
Encephalitis Lethargica }	1 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 1	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum }	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Ant. Poliomyelitis }	3	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis }	2	...	1 1	...	...	...	...	...	1 1	...	...	...	...	1

*Other Diseases Notifiable Locally.*

Measles ...	95	5	21	15	14	40	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Whooping Cough	84 1	8 1	19	13	15	29	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

The figures in *italics* in the above table give the number of deaths of cases notified.

*Tuberculosis.*

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 ...	...	...	...	1	..	...	...	1
2-4 ..	1	...	...	1	..	...	...	...
5-9 ...	...	...	1	3	...	...	...	2
10-14 ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15-19 ...	6	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
20-24 ...	6	7	...	...	1	2	...	...
25-34 ...	10	7	...	...	2	3	...	...
35-44 ...	4	4	1	...	4	...	1	...
45-54 ...	5	1	...	...	...	2	1	...
55-64 ...	4	2	...	...	3	4	...	...
65 and upwards...	—	1	...	...	2	1	...	...
Totals ...	38	22	2	5	13	13	2	3

The arrangements for supplying Diphtheria Antitoxin, Throat Swabs, specimen bottles of Sputum, Widal Blood Tubes, etc., from the Health Department for the use of General Practitioners in the district remain the same as in previous years.

**Isolation Hospital.**

*Cases admitted to the Isolation Hospital during the year.*

Authority sending in cases	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Typhoid Fever	Other Diseases	Total
Colechester Borough ...	15	7	1	12	35
Essex County Hospital ...	1	...	3	...	4
Mental Institutions ...	...	...	...	1	1
War Department ...	4	1	...	12	17
Walton U.D. ...	2	...	...	...	2
Brightlingsea U.D. ...	...	5	...	...	5
Frinton U.D. ...	1	1	...	...	1
Tendring R.D. ...	29	6	...	3	38
Lexden and Winstree R.D. ...	12	1	...	...	14
Melford R.D. ...	3	...	1	...	4
Essex County Council ...	...	...	1	68*	68
West Mersea U.D. ...	4	1	...	2	2
Totals ...	71	20	5	98	194
		2	2	3	7

Deaths from the various diseases are given in italics.

\* Cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 24 in Hospital beds and 44 in Sanatorium beds.

One Nurse contracted Diphtheria in the Hospital, and three maids in the hospital suffered from suspicious throats. These were found upon bacteriological examination to be simple Tonsillitis and not Diphtheria.

It has been noted above that 68 of the 98 "Other Diseases" were cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. The other 30 were made up as follows—

6 Measles.

6 Tonsillitis.

5 Mumps.

2 German Measles.

1 each—Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis, Measles and Pneumonia, Influenza, Urticaria, Whooping Cough, Teething Rash, Acute Poliomyelitis, Gastritis, Whooping Cough and Pneumonia, Retro-pharyngeal Abscess and Tonsillar Abscess.

Several of the above cases were sent to Hospital as suspicious cases of either Scarlet Fever or Diphtheria. The onset of such a condition as a Retro-pharyngeal Abscess or Tonsillar Abscess may closely simulate an attack of Diphtheria, and rather than wait to see how such a case may develop, it is obviously better to get it into hospital for treatment at once, whichever condition it may finally prove to be.

The above list shows the diversity of diseases that an Isolation Hospital staff may be called upon to treat.

*Scarlet Fever.* There were only 26 cases notified during the year, and 19 of these were removed to the Isolation Hospital. Two deaths from Scarlet Fever occurred: one was a child, nursed at home, who died of Scarlatinal Nephritis; and the other a man, who was a patient in Guy's Hospital in London, who had been admitted there for another reason, but while there he contracted Scarlet Fever and died of it; being a Colchester resident his death has to be transferred to Colchester and included among the Colchester deaths.

Only one "Return" case occurred. This was the mother of a child who had been discharged apparently quite well upon October 1st; the mother was admitted to Hospital suffering from Scarlet Fever on October 27th.

It is usual to count as "Return Cases" all cases that occur, after contact with a patient who has been sent home apparently well, within 28 days.

The cases of Scarlet Fever were distributed in the Wards, Garrison and Institutions as follows :—

North Ward	South Ward	East Ward	West Ward	Garrison	Institutions
6	4	7	5	3	1

*Diphtheria.* This disease continues to be astonishingly scarce. Only 8 cases were notified, and all were removed to the Isolation Hospital. Only 5 of the 8 had definitely positive throat swabs. It is possible that the other 3 were no more than simple Tonsillitis; however, they were suspiciously like cases of Diphtheria, and it does sometimes happen that the Klebs-Loeffler Bacillus cannot be found in swabs from the throats of patients who clinically appear to be certainly suffering from Diphtheria.

The cases occurred in the Wards, etc., as follows :—

North Ward	South Ward	East Ward	West Ward	Garrison	Institutions
—	1	3	2	1	1

For the second year in succession the North Ward has remained completely free from Diphtheria.

Two of the above cases were infected away from Colchester, the disease developing in Colchester after the infection had been caught elsewhere.

*Enteric Fever.* Nine cases of this disease occurred during the year. Only eight were notified as one was not diagnosed until after death. This last case and four others were inmates of Severalls Mental Hospital. Three of the other cases occurred in the Essex County Hospital, two patients and a nurse, these were transferred to the Isolation Hospital and all three made a satisfactory recovery.

Thus only one case can be considered a true Borough case. This was a man aged 64 who contracted the disease in a severe form. He was admitted to the hospital, but he was not a good subject to stand the strain of such an illness, and he died a few days after his admission.

*Cerebro-spinal Meningitis, Encephalitis Lethargica, Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.* Two cases of Cerebro-spinal Meningitis were notified, and one death was ascribed to this disease in a child who had not been notified as suffering from the disease. One of the notified cases was a boy of 17 years who died in the Isolation Hospital. The second was a boy of 18 months who died in the Essex County Hospital.

The only case notified as *Encephalitis Lethargica* was a woman who died of this disease in the Essex County Hospital.

Three cases of *Anterior Poliomyelitis* were notified, these were treated in the Essex County Hospital, and one a mentally defective patient from the Royal Eastern Counties Institution was treated in the Isolation Hospital. All made good recoveries.

*Pneumonia.* A great increase occurred in the number of cases of this disease. Thrice as many were notified as in 1926 and the deaths resulting were roughly doubled. An attack of Influenza was the beginning of the illness in many cases, and it has already been pointed out how wise it is to look after a chill or cold before it develop into something worse, and this is particularly needful when Influenza is about. Such facts as the above emphasize the dangers of Influenza. In itself it may not frequently kill, but as in Measles and Whooping Cough it is the subsequent lung disease that so frequently follows that causes the fatal termination of the illness.

In the month of February when Influenza was prevalent, no less than 58 cases of *Pneumonia* were notified, about ten times as many cases as usually occur in any one month.

No doubt a large number of cases occurred and recovered without ever having been notified, as *Pneumonia* is one of the diseases that has comparatively recently been made notifiable, and doctors when extra busy are likely to forget to notify, that this was the

case in a large number of instances is shewn by the fact that 35 deaths were ascribed to Pneumonia, none of these persons having been previously notified as so suffering.

Out of the 118 persons notified 19 died. The cases were distributed in the Wards and Institutions as follows—

North	South	East	West	Institutions	Garrison
17	18	48	22	12	1

*Erysipelas, Malaria and Dysentery.* Only seven cases of Erysipelas were notified during the year, and no deaths occurred from this disease.

A child was notified from the Garrison as suffering from Benign Tertian Malaria. This disease had been contracted in India whence the child had come with his parents.

No cases of Dysentery were notified.

*Measles and Whooping Cough.* Cases of Measles were much fewer than in 1926, and no deaths resulted from this disease. In 1926, 183 cases were notified, whereas in 1927 only 95 notifications of this disease were received. The disease was never present in epidemic form.

Whooping Cough was also prevalent, only 85 cases being notified when in the previous year there had been 108. One death was ascribed to this disease. In 1926 there had been four.

Under the new arrangements for admitting to Hospital severe cases of either of these diseases when occurring in children under eight years of age, two children suffering from Measles and one from Whooping Cough were sent into the Isolation Hospital. All were seriously ill, but all three made good progress in the hospital and ultimately made good recoveries.

*Tuberculosis.* The total number of deaths during 1927 from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was 26, and from Non-Pulmonary there were only 5, making 31 deaths from Tuberculosis in all. Nine of these cases had not been notified previous to death, a percentage of 29 of the total deaths. This is rather a higher percentage than usual.

The number of Pulmonary cases notified was 60, the same number as in the previous year.

The Tuberculosis Register shows the following number of cases of this disease in the Borough on 1st January, 1928:—

*Cases of Tuberculosis 1st January, 1928.*

219 Pulmonary.		82 Non-Pulmonary.	
Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
130	89	39	43

The number of Pulmonary cases have increased by 6, but the sufferers from the Non-Pulmonary type of the disease have decreased by 11. The sex distribution has changed considerably. The Male Pulmonary cases have increased by 12, while the Female have diminished by 6. Both sexes in the Non-Pulmonary Group are less, the Male being 8 less and the Female 3 less.

There is little significance in any of these changes. In so small an area such figures are likely to have unexpected and unaccountable fluctuations. It is only after a series of years that the annual totals of cases in the register will be of value. The above figures show an unfortunate increase in the total number of cases of Tuberculosis. Yet the very satisfactory drop in the Death Rate from this disease has already been commented upon earlier in this Report; and in the Annual Report for 1926 a table was given, which is repeated below, showing how steady and regular has been the fall in the Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

**Pulmonary Tuberculosis Death Rate, 1921-27.**

1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927
1.11	0.96	0.67	0.66	0.81	0.58	0.62

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